

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 07282 271748Z
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-06 HEW-04 AID-05 OIC-02
L-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IOE-00 /047 W
-----271927Z 015345 /46

P R 271744Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7754
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BONN 07282

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: WHO JORG GW
SUBJECT: WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY: GERMAN LANGUAGE
QUESTION
REFS: (A) STATE 92948; (B) GENEVA 3106 NOTAL

1. EMBOFF WAS CALLED TO FONOFF (SCHMITZ, UN DIVISION)
AFTERNOON OF APRIL 27 TO RECEIVE A DETAILED EXPLANATION
OF GERMAN VIEWS ON THE QUESTION OF THE PHASED INTRO-
DUCTION OF THE GERMAN LANGUAGE IN THE EUROPEAN REGION
OF WHO. EMBOFF WAS SHOWN RATHER STIFF INSTRUCTION TO
THE FRG EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO MAKE AN IMMEDIATE
APPROACH AT A HIGH LEVEL TO EXPRESS GERMAN UNHAPPINESS
OVER THE POSSIBILITY THAT US WILL SEEK A POSTPONEMENT
OF THE INTRODUCTION OF GERMAN.

2. THE FRG EMBASSY IS INSTRUCTED TO CALL SUCH A
REQUEST BY THE US AN "UNUSUAL AND UNFRIENDLY ACT." IT
IS ALSO INSTRUCTED TO POINT OUT:

-- THE FRG HAS BOTH A PRACTICAL AND POLITICAL
INTEREST IN THE USE OF GERMAN.
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-- GERMAN LANGUAGE WILL BE RESTRICTED TO THE
EUROPEAN REGION OF WHO.

-- A REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT AT THIS STAGE WOULD
BE PARTICULARLY PAINFUL GIVEN THE FACT THAT USE OF
GERMAN WAS AGREED TWO YEARS AGO.

3. SCHMITZ TOLD US THAT THE FRG WILL BE PREPARED TO OFFSET SOME OF THE COST ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS. THIS POINT IS NOT IN THE GERMAN INSTRUCTIONS SINCE THE FRG CANNOT MAKE A BINDING COMMITMENT TO DO THIS AT THIS TIME. WHEN WE ASKED ABOUT THE CANADIAN POSITION, SCHMITZ SAID THAT THE FRG IS CONVINCED THAT THE CANADIAN POSITION WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE US POSITION. FINALLY, SCHMITZ EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THIS MATTER CAN BE RESOLVED BEFORE THE FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS FROM ASIA ON FRIDAY SO THAT HE WILL NOT HAVE TO REPORT IT TO HIM.

4. IN REPLY, WE POINTED TO OUR LONG-STANDING CONCERN OVER LANGUAGE PROLIFERATION. WE UNDERTOOK TO REPORT THE GERMAN VIEWS AND SAID THAT A DEFINITIVE US POSITION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING FROM THE DEPARTMENT.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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